

Duke
MARGOLIS INSTITUTE *for*
**Health
Policy**



Duke- Margolis Summer Experience
May - July 2024

Mission of the Institute

Improve health, health equity, and the value of health care through practical, innovative, and evidence-based policy solutions

Program Overview

Effectively improving health, health equity and the value of health care requires multidisciplinary teams and capabilities. To meet this aim, Duke-Margolis uniquely brings together teams of health care and policy experts and organizations to assess key policy and practice challenges and identify and implement impactful solutions. As future policy-leaders and -aware professionals, students are integral team members of the Institute's mission.

The Margolis Summer Experience Program is a summer internship program that offers students opportunities to contribute to a variety of projects aimed at improving health, health equity and the value of health care through research and the development of innovative, practical, and evidence-based policy solutions through a collaborative and mentored 10-week summer research experience

Goals of the Summer Experience Program

- To learn through challenging and meaningful activities
- To link academic learning to policy and practice
- To gain professional experience within the field of health policy
- To build positive relationships with faculty and staff
- To identify, clarify, and/or confirm direction as it relates to your academic studies and future career path
- To develop strong networking/mentoring relationships
- To strengthen our Margolis student community
- To have fun in the process!



Reima Bash

Reima is a member of Duke Class of 2025, from Apex, North Carolina. She is currently pursuing a degree in Neuroscience with a minor in sociology. Reima has harnessed her creative and communication skills to serve as multiple organizations' directors of communications such as Duke Student Government and Duke Student Collaborative on Health Policy. Other than that, she works with Progress Period to bring free period products to dorms on campus and with Duke University Union Visual Arts committee to bring arts programming to Duke students. She has spent the past three years studying cancer from a biology standpoint, researching the pathway of the development of rhabdomyosarcoma (a rare soft tissue childhood cancer). This summer, she's excited to build on her biological knowledge framework and learn more about expansion of oncological treatment access in marginalized communities with the Lyerly Lab.



Deven Gupta

Deven Gupta is a rising junior at Duke University from Irvine, California. He is double majoring in Biophysics and Classical Civilizations as well as pursuing a Health Policy Certificate. Deven is involved in healthcare delivery and accessibility. Previously, he has worked with biotech company Illumina and Duke's Science & Society program to develop patient genomic data principles to enable patients to access health data confidently. He is currently a Bass Connections Fellow working on a project tracing the roots of nutrition access, implementation and policy. Additionally, he is a research intern in the Biomedical Interferometry Optics & Spectroscopy lab. Outside of Duke, he works as a distribution leader for Root Causes Fresh Produce Program. In his free time, Deven loves playing the drums, going to the gym, and watching basketball. This summer, he will be working with the Duke-Margolis Institute to investigate health policies surrounding accessibility to CAR-T therapies.



Katherine Hamilton

Katherine Hamilton is a member of the Duke class of 2025 from Westfield, NJ. She is a Public Policy major with a minor in French and a certificate in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. At Duke University, Katherine is part of Bass Connections' Tracing the Roots of Nutrition team, a research group exploring food insecurity in Durham, NC. In light of her interest in health policy, Katherine is in the process of writing her senior thesis on the barriers to HPV vaccine uptake across the United States. Outside of academics, Katherine is captain of Duke's varsity cross country team, and she serves as a member of Duke's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. This summer Katherine will be working on Improving Access to Pharmaceuticals and Combating Drug Shortages with Stephen Colvill and Thomas Rodes. Katherine is eager to learn from Duke-Margolis experts and she looks forward to strengthening her understanding of how policy and global health intersect to generate positive societal change.



Francisca Ama Hammond

Francisca is a Master of Population Health Science student at Duke University, bringing a unique perspective informed by her prior optometry degree from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. Driven by a passion for tackling health disparities and strengthening public health through research and policy, she actively seeks opportunities to bridge the gap between research and real-world impact. Francisca's current role as a research assistant on the Shared Kidney Care Study exemplifies this commitment. Here, she investigates how older patient-adult care partner dyads manage Chronic Kidney Disease together, analyzing the impact on individual and dyadic health and well-being. Francisca eagerly anticipates the Margolis Summer Internship as an opportunity to refine her research skills and delve deeper into the critical field of health equity. This summer, she will be working with Dr. Deepshikha Ashana on the Critical Care Health Equity research project.



Huda Haque

Huda Haque is a rising junior at Duke University from Morrisville, North Carolina studying English and Chemistry. At Duke, she is involved in the Hearts for the Unhoused club, which provides blood pressure screenings for unhoused Durham community members, and the Duke Writers' Collective. She is interested in studying the social determinants of health as well as health literacy and is excited to work with the "Closing the Gap on Health Disparities and Outcomes in Hypertension" team to identify and analyze health disparities in the Durham community. In her free time, she enjoys writing, watching movies, and soccer.



Ariana Khayamian

Ariana Khayamian is a Master of Public Health student specializing in Community Health Promotion at the University of Southern California. She is from San Diego, CA, and holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Health Psychology with a minor in Health Care Social Issues from the University of California, San Diego. Ariana serves as Vice President of Beyond Concussion 501(c)(3), supporting and advocating for individuals with brain injuries. She also works as a medical scribe, assistant vision therapist, and community outreach advisor for immigrant populations in San Diego. Additionally, she serves as a Student Researcher within the Displacement and Health Research Center at UC San Diego, where she focuses on displacement as a social determinant of health. This summer, Ariana will be a Healthcare Transformation Graduate Intern in Durham, NC where she aims to bridge gaps between research, healthcare consumer experience, and policy implementation; ensuring inclusivity and equity in healthcare for all.



Emma Kikerkov

Emma graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, minor in Medical Anthropology, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May 2020. She then decided to pursue a dual degree program at the Eshelman and Gillings School of Global Public Health to delve deeper into the intersection of pharmacy and public health. This journey has led her to diverse healthcare settings, from some of the most underserved areas in North Carolina to one of the state's well-resourced hospitals. Her current interest lies in using quantitative methods to merge her pharmacy and public health knowledge, with the ultimate goal of improving patient outcomes. Emma looks forward to collaborating with the Real World Evidence team to further explore the implementation of pharmacogenomics



Laura Kmitch

Laura Kmitch is a masters student in the Department of Population Health Sciences in the Duke University School of Medicine. Her research interests are varied and include health policy, healthcare interventions, program evaluation, healthcare quality, social determinants of health, maternal health, healthcare competition, and Real-World Evidence. She is passionate about applying health data to public health issues. This summer, she will be working with Dr. Jonas Swartz and the DobbsWatch Research team to measure the effects of abortion restrictions on maternal health. Prior to graduate school, Laura worked at a health technology startup leading analytic efforts to quantify the impact of social determinants of health on healthcare costs and utilization. She also has experience in health economics, focusing especially on healthcare competition, and has completed stints in government service and economic consulting. Laura holds a BA in economics and BS in business administration from the University of Maryland.



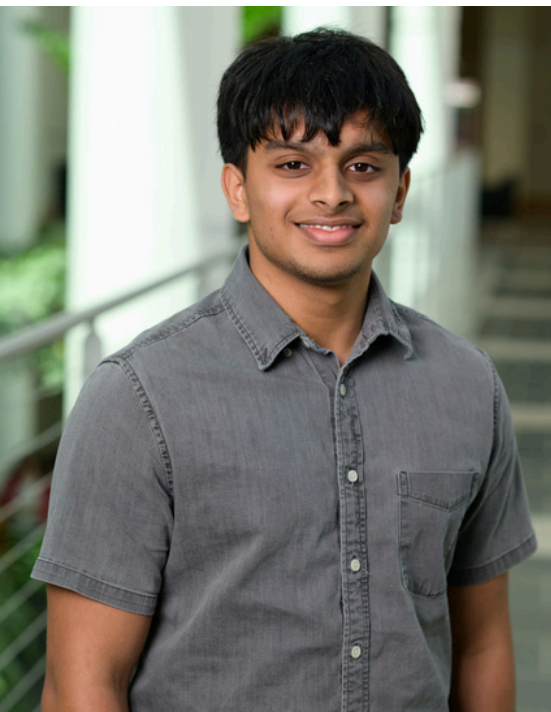
Veronica Marshall-Kirk

Veronica Marshall-Kirk is a member of the Class of 2025 from Tallahassee, Florida. She is a rising senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill pursuing a BSPH in Health Policy & Management from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Her passion for public health is driven by witnessing inequities in health outcomes in her hometown. She is interested in exploring the utilization of health policy to support social needs and whole-person health. Outside of her coursework, Veronica works as a Volunteer Crisis Counselor for the Crisis Text Line, reflecting her eagerness for ensuring all individuals have access to mental health support. She will be working on the Healthy Opportunities Pilots (HOP) team under the mentorship of Dr. Will Bleser and is excited at the opportunity to contribute to conversations surrounding the innovative work happening in North Carolina with the HOP.



Olivia Mitchell

Olivia is a Master of Public Health student at the Yale School of Public Health, originally from Eagan, Minnesota. She is pursuing her degree in the Health Policy department at Yale, and previously completed a BA in Religion at Middlebury College. She is particularly interested in Medicaid policy, as well as care delivery and payment transformation in the safety-net, and is a regular volunteer at the HAVEN Free Clinic in New Haven. This summer, she will be working with the Health Care Transformation team at Duke-Margolis on a project that seeks to identify policy opportunities and best practices to promote accountable care for safety-net providers through state Medicaid programs and other state-specific health payers. She is excited to learn more about the intersection of research, policy, and practice, and is also looking forward to exploring DC and the many hiking opportunities in Virginia.



Nikhil Patel

Nikhil is an undergraduate student from Vanderbilt University and is a member of the class of 2027 from Raleigh, North Carolina. He is majoring in Medicine, Health, and Society with a concentration in Health Policy and Economics. He is also pursuing a degree in political science. His goal is to attend medical school, and he is passionate about health equity and addressing disparities in underserved communities. As an intern with the Duke-Regional Hospital Health Policy project, Nikhil is excited to address social determinants of health in an acute hospital setting this summer.



Grace Pickett

Grace Pickett is a rising junior at George Washington University and is from Durham, North Carolina. She is majoring in Public Health and International Affairs with a concentration in Global Public Health. She is passionate about health equity and increasing access to healthcare both globally and locally. She is the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for her sorority where she organizes and executes DEI events and programming. She is also involved in a service organization on campus and volunteers regularly with various organizations. This summer Grace will be working on the Duke Regional Hospital health policy project with Dr. Dev Sangvai and Dr. Aparna Kamath. She is looking forward to learning more about ways to increase health equity and access in Durham and to better address the healthcare needs of her community through policy.



Ella Reeve

Ella Reeve is a member of the Class of 2025 from Winston Salem, North Carolina. She is a rising senior at the University of North Carolina pursuing a BSPH in Health Policy and Management from the Gillings School of Global Public Health, complemented by a minor in Conflict Management. Beyond her academic pursuits, Ella is a co-director of the SHAC Syringe Service Program, an opportunity that aligns with her passion for harm reduction as a strategy to address the opioid crisis. She also contributes to the NC Life Study as a research assistant and works as a server at Supdogs, a Chapel Hill favorite restaurant. This summer, Ella will be channeling her passion for public policy and social justice in health into the Health Equity Data in NC Medicaid research project. Eager to learn more about health payment reform, she looks forward to collaborating with experts in the field of health policy and exploring the vibrant landscape of Washington, D.C.



Patrick Rodriguez

Patrick is a graduate student at Duke University pursuing a Masters in Bioethics and Science Policy with intended concentrations in both Bioethics & Policy and Technology Ethics & Policy. He has experience in policy and ELSI work regarding genomics, and studies policy considerations around emerging neurotechnology and the associated neural data generated from those technologies. He is also an editorial assistant for the Journal of Law and Biosciences overseen by Duke's Science and Society program. Outside of academics, Patrick enjoys running and crocheting. Patrick will be working on the Real-World Evidence (RWE) and Pharmacogenomics project this summer with Dr. Hendricks-Sturup. He is excited to expand his existing understanding of genomic policy through its intersections with RWE and pharmaceuticals. More broadly, Patrick is excited to work at the Margolis Institute and participate in the policy innovations taking place.



Anna Seaman

Anna Seaman is a current junior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she studies Health Policy and Management at the Gillings School of Global Public Health. She also studies at Duke University through the Robertson Scholars Leadership Program. Anna is particularly interested in exploring how policy can be used to improve healthcare equity and quality. She is interested in learning more about Value-Based Care this summer. Outside of the classroom, Anna volunteers as a doula for Birth Partners, providing free support for birthing persons. She loves to hike and ski in her free time. This summer, Anna looks forward to working with the Health Care Transformation team.



Akhilesh Shivaramakrishnan

Akhilesh Shivaramakrishnan is a member of the Duke Class of 2025 from Concord, NC. He is majoring in public policy and global health. His research interests are primarily lie in the global and public mental health space. He is involved in the SRT India program with the Duke Global Health Institute, an ongoing research collaboration investigating the mental health of orphans and separated children served by Udayan Care, an NGO in New Delhi. On campus at Duke, he is involved in leadership in Duke Diya, Duke Student Government, and Healthy Hands Initiative. Some of his key passions are equitable education access, AAPI inclusion efforts, and mental health awareness. This summer, he is excited to learn more about the work that the Margolis Institute is involved in. He will be working with Dr. Michelle Franklin and the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities on a data initiative regarding disability health policy.



Sara Ann Stahl

Sara Stahl is a second year Master of Science in Public Health student in Health Policy and Management at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Gillings School of Global Public Health. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2018 with a B.A. in Psychology. After graduating, Sara joined the National Institute of Mental Health as a post-baccalaureate research fellow. In 2020, Sara moved to North Carolina to work at UNC's TEACCH Autism Program for an additional two years before starting graduate school. She is excited to work with Dr. Nina Sperber on several different projects related to clinical decision support tools and participatory systems dynamics modeling.



Duke-Margolis Summer Experience Program Team



Gillian Sanders Schmidler
Faculty Director

Gillian Sanders Schmidler, PhD, is Professor of Population Health Sciences and Medicine at Duke University and Deputy Director of the Duke-Margolis Institute for Health Policy. Dr. Sanders Schmidler has a PhD in Medical Informatics from Stanford University and was an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Stanford's Center for Primary Care and Outcomes Research from 1998 until the Fall of 2003 when she joined the faculty at Duke University. As the Duke-Margolis Deputy Director she oversees the Institute's educational, policy, and research missions. In addition to her leadership role within Duke-Margolis, she is core faculty within the Duke Clinical Research Institute. Dr. Sanders Schmidler's research focuses on the development of evidence-based decision models to evaluate the comparative effectiveness of alternative prevention, treatment, and management strategies for chronic diseases – and the translation of such models into formats/tools that patients, healthcare providers, and policymakers can use in their decision-making process. Dr. Sanders Schmidler is Past President of the Society for Medical Decision Making (SMDM) and Director of Duke's Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC) funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) since 2009.



Tiffany Chan
Senior Program Coordinator

Tiffany Chan, MS, is the Senior Program Coordinator, where she works to support and advance the educational experience across the Institute and for undergraduate students, in particular. Tiffany oversees day-to-day operations of the Duke Margolis Summer Experience Program and Margolis Scholars Program and the administrative functions for Duke Bass Connections teams sponsored by Duke-Margolis. Prior coming to Duke-Margolis, Tiffany worked in the Orientation and Student Conduct Offices at Brandeis University and then worked for University Housing at NC State University where she was the primary lead for all programmatic efforts of two Living Learning Communities. Outside of Duke, Tiffany served as the Chapter President for UNCW Triangle Alumni Chapter and a member of the Junior League of Raleigh. She enjoys spending time with her husband, watching college sports and seeks out the best coffee spots in the Triangle area.

Summer 2024 Mentors

Deepshikha Ashana

Will Bleser

Stephen Colvill

Nora Emmott

Michelle Franklin

Jonathan Gonzalez-Smith

Bradi Ganger

Rachele Hendricks-Sturrup

Katie Huber

Aparna Kamath

H Kim Lyerly

Yolande Pokam Tchuisseu

Sam Repka

Thomas Rodes

Dev Sangvai

Beth Shaz

Montgomery Smith

Nina Sperber

Jonas Swartz

Brianna Van Stekelenburg

Rebecca Whitaker

Mentor Acknowledgment

Mentors, thank you for taking the time this summer to support the Margolis Interns. With your support and mentorship, students will have the opportunity to gain foundational knowledge of the field of health policy, network with professionals and peers, gain hands-on research and presentation experience, and much more. Thank you for building positive relationships with our students, further strengthening the Margolis community.